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RURAL POPULATION TO RECEIVE MORE MEDICINE

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 Main Adm for Apothecaries

Personnel of the Voronezh Oblast Apothecary Administration have set before themselves the task of improving the flow of medical supplies to apothecary stores located in rural communities. This task is important in view of the fact that in recent years the apothecary net has increased so that there are 170 central apothecary stores and 330 branch stores in various regions of the oblast. Unfortunately, organization to supply these apothecaries has not kept up with the increased demand. It is eventually intended that each obstetrician's and midwife's office will be in a position to dispense some of the more basic types of drugs and medicines to eliminate the necessity for would-be purchasers having to travel many kilometers to get prescriptions filled. Some progress has been made in this respect and much of the credit for the success of the program should go to the local public health organizations.

Since the war the volume of business in various apothecary stores has risen considerably. At present stores average from 500 to 1150 rubles in sales per month. The apothecary stores at Verkhne-Mamcnskiy, Annenskiy, Novokhoperskiy, Talov, Petropavlovsk, and in some other regions have turned in remarkable sales records for the first half of the year.

The Voronezh Oblast Apothecary Administration has increased the number of prepared medicines supplied to various apothecary stores. There are now some 60 standard medicines which can be found on the shelves of all apothecary stores in the oblast.

The increase in the demands of the expanded network of apothecary stores has increased the demands on the medical industry. Unfortunately, the medical industry has not kept pace with the other branches in the endeavor to promote improved medical aid to the population. For example, there have been numerous cases where factories have not fulfilled production quotas in even the most

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vital and basic drugs such as aspirin, sodium salicylate, salol, streptocide, phenacetin and pyramidon. At other times, some factories shipped excessive quantities of supplies, and waste resulted. The problem of a satisfactory supply of laboratory glassware still has not been solved. In some cases factories have shipped damaged drugs. For example the "Zdorov'ye Trudyashchisya" Factory recently shipped a consignment of glucose in damaged ampoules. The Irbitek and Tyumen factories use slow freight for their shipments, and invariably upon arrival after 4 months on the road, shipments showed deterioration.

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